

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection and rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Examiner requested a copy of the PTO 1449 submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement filed October 30, 2001. The Information Disclosure Statement only cites a copending application. Therefore, a PTO 1449 was not submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement.

Claims Status

Claims 1 through 3, 6 through 12, 15 through 21, and 24 through 28 remain pending in the application. Claims 4, 5, 13, 14, 22, and 23 have been canceled. Claims 1, 2, 6, 9 through 11, 15, 18 through 21, and 24 through 28 have been amended to even more succinctly define the invention and/or to improve their form. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added. Claims 1, 6, 10, 15, 19, and 24 are the only independent claims pending in the application.

Allowable Subject Matter

It is acknowledged with appreciation that Claims 9, 18, and 27 are merely objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

Section 101 Rejection

Claims 19 through 27 are rejected as being related to a non-statutory subject matter, i.e., a computer program. Without conceding the propriety of the rejection, independent Claims 19 and 24 have been amended *inter alia* to refer to a computer program product, which is an expressly-stated form of statutory subject matter under Section 101.

Art Rejections

Claims 1 through 5, 10 through 14, and 19 through 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0097407 (Ryan, et al.).

Claims 6 through 8, 15 through 17, 24, 25, and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,218,130 (Satomi).

The rationale underlying each of the foregoing art rejection is succinctly set forth in the Official Action.

Response to Art Rejections

The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent Claims 1, 10, and 19

Amended Claim 1 calls for a print control apparatus for generating print data to be printed by a printing apparatus such that a folding process for print sheets printed by the printing apparatus is performed by a finishing apparatus. The setting information acquisition means acquires setting information including side-order setting information and sheet-order setting information in accordance with properties of the printing apparatus and finishing apparatus. The page layout determination means specifies an order of a print side to be printed by the printing apparatus based on the setting information acquired by the

setting information acquisition means and for determining a page layout of print data. The generation means generates the print data in accordance with the page layout determined by the page layout determination means. The side-order setting information is information designating whether the print side to be printed prior is an inner side or an outer side of a print sheet by the folding process. The sheet-order setting information is information designating whether the print sheet to be printed prior is an outmost side sheet or an innermost side sheet by the folding process.

Amended independent Claims 10 and 19 are directed to a method and program product, respectively, formulated on the basis of amended Claim 1.

According to the claimed invention, a print control apparatus (method or program product) generates print data to be printed by a printing apparatus such that a folding process for print sheets printed by the printing apparatus is performed by a finishing apparatus. A feature of the claimed invention is to acquire side-order setting information and sheet-order setting information in accordance with properties of the printing apparatus and finishing apparatus. The side-order setting information is information designating whether the print side to be printed prior is inner side or outer side of the print sheet by a folding process, and the sheet-order setting information is information designating whether the print sheet to be printed prior is outmost side sheet or innermost side sheet by the folding process.

Ryan, et al. relates to an order of paper feed in a finishing apparatus. More specifically, Ryan, et al. discloses a production monitor controller which operates sheet feeders 42 and 43 so as to set various sheets in a stack 50 in correct order in a collator 44 of a finishing apparatus 46. See page 2, paragraph [0011].

In Ryan, et al., generating a booklet by laying various sheets is disclosed. However, a relationship between a printer and a finisher is not considered and whether a print side or a print sheet to be printed prior is inner side outer side of the booklet by property of the device is not disclosed. Ryan, et al.'s finishing system is merely directed to a technique of inserting sheets, and a user must insert the sheets into a sheet feeder 42 in consideration of the print side. On the other hand, according to the claimed invention, it is possible to obtain a copy with correct page order even if a user does not consider a printing order and a page layout.

It is respectfully submitted that Ryan, et al. does not disclose expressly claimed features and therefore does not anticipate the invention recited in Claims 1, 10, and 19.

Independent Claims 6, 15, and 24

Amended Claim 6 calls for a print control apparatus for generating print data to be printed by a printing apparatus such that a folding process for print sheets printed by the printing apparatus is performed by a finishing apparatus. The layout control means for, if the print sheet printed by the printing apparatus are divided into a plurality of batch documents and the folding process for each batch document is performed by the finishing apparatus, controlling layout of each page to arrange pages in consecutive page numbers for each batch document. The acquisition means acquires identification information of the finishing apparatus. The transmission order control means controls the order of transmission of print data by each batch document based on a paper discharge property specified by the identification information of the finishing apparatus acquired by the acquisition means.

Amended independent Claims 15 and 24 are directed to a method and a program product, respectively, formulated on the basis of amended Claim 1.

It is noted that the acquisition feature recited in allowable Claims 9, 18 or 27 is incorporated respectively, in Claims 6, 15, and 24. In a print control apparatus (method or program product) print data to be printed by a printing apparatus is generated such that a folding process for print sheets printed by the printing apparatus is performed by a finishing apparatus, to acquire identification information of the finishing apparatus and to control the order of transmission of print data by each batch document based on paper discharge property specified by the identification information of the finishing apparatus.

Satomi relates to the reading operation in a copying apparatus. More specifically, Satomi discloses a technique of acquiring the same copy as an original by respectively designating whether a starting page is an odd page or an even page and whether an ending page is an odd page or an even page when a book original is set on a platen with a two-page spread and is copied in a double-surface copying apparatus. Satomi does not disclose controlling an order of transmission of print data, as in the invention recited in Claims 6, 15, and 24.

It is respectfully submitted that Satomi does not disclose features recited in independent Claims 6, 15, and 24 and thereby does not anticipate the claimed invention.

Dependent Claims

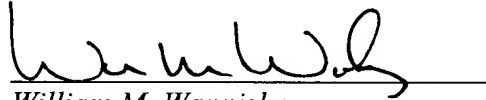
Claims 2, 3, 7 through 9, 11, 12, 16 through 18, 20, 21, and 25 through 28 depend either directly or indirectly from one of Claims 1, 6, 10, 15, 19, and 24 and are allowable by virtue of their dependency and in their own right for further defining Applicants' invention. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Closing Comments

It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are allowable over the art of record and that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application are earnestly solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our New York office at the address shown below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wannisky', is written over a horizontal line.

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